

Media Release

Fisherrow Yacht Club, 97 New Street , Musselburgh EH21 6DG
Issued 21.6.21

Discover Sailing Day Organised by Fisherrow Yacht Club

On Sunday 20th June Fisherrow beach was adorned with banners and boats when Fisherrow Yacht Club hosted its annual open day to give potential new members the chance to experience sailing. The event is actually called “Discover Sailing” and is part of a national initiative instigated by the Royal Yachting Association.

Alison Holstead FYC Commodore outlined:

"The Discovery Sailing event is about offering taster sessions to those in our local community that see us out on the water, racing and sailing for fun, and would like the opportunity to experience that. We had a fantastic response to the event and most participants remarked on the friendliness and helpfulness of the members of our thriving club".



The Beach Adorned with Banners and Boats

Between 10am and the last possible safe boat access before low tide at 1pm twenty five people had the chance to sail in one of two club Laser 2000 dinghies, one of which was helmed by Atholl Sheriffs who is a club Sailing Instructor the other Laser helmed by Alison Holstead, who as well as being club Commodore is also an Assistant Sailing Instructor. The introduction to dinghy sailing sessions lasted 30 minutes and then the participants had a chance to be in one of the club rescue ribs for a 15 minute experience of power boating supervised by Claire Duncan, who is the club Sailing Secretary and one of the volunteer crew for Kinghorn RNLI lifeboat station.

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The weather was ideal for beginners as the gentle breeze meant that the guest sailors had the chance to chat and ask questions of their helms without the more demanding task of shifting their body weights to keep the dinghies in good balance to the wind.



Keeping them safe

After the two on the water sessions the guests were given conducted tours of the club premises following a COVID safe one way direction and then offered tea and biscuits in the club yard.

On land the open day was coordinated by Mark McClelland who chose to have a more direct invitation system as prior to the event he asked club members to invite friends who might enjoy sailing. This proved very efficient as the time sheet was all pre booked prior to the event. Mark had effective communication with all the vessels by short wave radio and the timing worked out perfectly so that despite the short tide opportunity every participant had the same taster experience.

Alan Thomson, membership secretary, who was on hand to show guests around the club said,

“To date in 2021 we have already had 35 new members join; quite a few are family members who will be a great boost to the Friday Junior Club. Any new members we get’ as a result of the open day’ is an added bonus.”

Club spokesperson, Inez Visser added “It was a truly lovely open day and especially nice for us as volunteers to be able to meet and mingle with another after the long months of lockdown. Mark did an excellent job of organising the event and the participants were very complimentary about their sailing tasters”

ENDS

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Photo by Alan Thomson

The Beach Adorned with Banners and Boats FYC Discover Sailing Day

Photo by Ben Golding:

Keeping The Crew Safe from Covid and safe on the water is club instructor Claire Duncan in blue vest while new member Mathew Simpson takes the helm also on board are guest crew Debbie Doyle Family and son and Julie Aitken with her husband and two children.